

Cooperative Agreements for HIV/AIDS Related Mental Health Services In Minority Communities

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Question: Can a local county health department or health center apply for this grant if they provide direct mental health services?

Answer: Yes. A local county health department or a health center operated by a county may apply for this grant as long as they are direct providers of mental health services. The key to eligibility is that the applicant must be a “public or private non-profit entity” that is a “direct mental health service provider.” With the latter in mind, applications from entities such as public clinical centers directly providing mental health services will be considered eligible even though they may be connected to state or local Government (see answer #2, as well).

2. Question: We are interested in a definition of “direct mental health service provider.” The applicant of interest is a hospital that provides direct mental health services through staff (e.g., psychiatric nurses, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatrists, and psychologists). Does a medical provider with mental health staff qualify as a mental health service provider?

Answer: Yes. However, please note that you also must provide sufficient information in your application to show that you are a community-based provider for people who are HIV positive.

2a. Question: Can the above medical provider be affiliated with, or part of, a university or college?

Answer: Yes.

3. Question: SM-06-001 is for mental health services for people who are HIV positive. Can we use it for HIV-affected households where members are experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) complicated by loss? Not everyone in the family will be HIV positive, but there will be at least one HIV positive family member.

Answer: First, your previous mental health experience does not have to be AIDS-related, so work in the PTSD area fits nicely with respect to eligibility (assuming the organization meets the 2-year requirement).

Second, and this is a major issue – all clients in the program *must* be HIV positive. However, the program allows family members (defined very loosely)/significant others to be seen/treated briefly in conjunction with the index client (e.g., brief couples or family therapy, short term groups, education sessions/groups for family members) for the purpose of helping the identified client. Family members/significant others of HIV

positive people cannot be seen unless the HIV positive person is the index client and the purpose of their session is to help the client.

4. Question: Can Africans be included under the “other racial/ethnic minority communities?”

Answer: Yes. African Americans or Africans with immigrant status who are HIV positive are appropriate target populations for this grant program. There is no restriction in regard to immigration status of clients.

5. Question: Is there a requirement for, or is evaluation permitted as a part of this program? If so, is there a set percentage of the budget than should be devoted to evaluation or is that left to the discretion of the applicant organization?

Answer: Yes. An evaluation component is part of the grant requirements. Information about the evaluation requirement for both the application and the implementation of the project are in the announcement (see Section I-2.5 and Section V-1E).

6. Question: Please advise if there are any grant facilities available for initiatives in Jamaica.

Answer: This program is a domestic (U.S.) HIV/AIDS service program. You may want to contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) or the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (<http://www3.niaid.nih.gov>), which might have programs for which non-U.S. entities can apply.

7. Question: Would a 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission focuses on HIV treatment and prevention plus peripheral services for the HIV positive population, be eligible as an applicant for this grant if it has existed for many years but does not have a 2-year history of providing mental health services?

Answer: No. The applicant organization must have provided mental health services for a minimum of 2 years.

7a. Question: If this HIV organization were to partner with a group of licensed mental health practitioners and/or community-based mental health service-providing non-profit organization(s), would the HIV organization be disallowed as the lead applicant for this grant?

Answer: The mental health provider must be the applicant organization, but collaboratives and/or partnerships are welcome. If the mental health organization were the legal applicant, the HIV service organization could be a collaborating agency and would be a primary referring agency that the mental health agency cites as a client source for their target population.

8. Question: The guidance notes “only direct mental health service providers may apply....” We have been providing HIV mental health services integrated with primary care at our HIV clinic here. However, we do not have a state license to provide the range of generic mental health services that would be provided in a mental health outpatient department. Do we still qualify to apply for your grant?

Answer: Yes. You only need to be a provider of mental health services for the last 2 years (not necessarily to people who are HIV positive), and you must agree to have a licensed mental health clinician as your clinical director and at least one other licensed mental health clinician on staff.

9. Question: Does the eligibility requirement of 2 years of experience as a provider of mental health services also require 2 years of providing psychiatric services?

Answer: No. While providing mental health services may include providing psychiatric services, this is not a prerequisite for this announcement.

10. Question: Can you recommend any articles or references for evidence based mental health models for individuals living with HIV?

Answer: No. The database of evidence-based practices that SAMHSA maintains does not currently contain any programs that pertain specifically to providing mental health services for persons living with HIV.

11. Question: The National Outcome Measures Standards (NOMS) are not posted on the SAMHSA website. How should applicants address the issue of NOMS?

Answer: We do not know when the NOMS will be posted; one recommendation is to indicate that your organization will collect whatever data is required by SAMHSA.